REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16 and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Honkomp et al. apparently in view of Tharman. Honkomp et al. was cited as disclosing an electrical connector with a one-piece cup-shaped connector shell (3) with an outer radial connector flange (11), and an insulating plug (16) having an open side made of glass. At column 4, lines 27-32, Honkomp et al. describes a cup-shaped body (3) with holes defined by an annular lip (11). As is shown in Fig. 1 of Honkomp et al., the annular lip (11) for each of the interior holes is formed in the inner portion of the cup-shaped body, so that Honkomp et al. does not disclose an outer radial connector flange of the cup-shaped body. Fig. 1 of Honkomp et al. also shows that each glass seal (16) is bounded on one side by a ceramic sleeve (17), and on the other side by a coating (24) described at column 5, lines 39-40 as a polymeric rubber silicone material, and along the sides of the glass seal by the annular lip (11) for each hole, so that the glass seal (16) is not disclosed as having an open side.

Claims 1 and 16 currently recite a cup-shaped connector shell with "an outer radial connector flange at the first end; an insulating plug mounted in the first end of said cup-shaped connector shell, said insulating plug having an open side; a plurality of tubular risers mounted to said open side of said insulating plug." It is respectfully submitted that Honkomp et al. and Tharman, taken individually or together, do not teach, disclose or suggest a cup-shaped connector shell having an outer radial connector flange at the first

end and an insulating plug mounted in the first end of the cup-shaped connector shell, with the insulating plug having an open side, and a plurality of tubular risers mounted to the open side of the insulating plug, as is claimed. As is discussed in the specification at page 2, lines 19-21, the electrical connector of the invention has a non-potted, open design, allowing potential contaminants to escape or be removed from the electrical connector. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16 and 18-23 are novel and inventive over Honkomp et al. and Tharman, and that the rejection of Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16 and 18-23 on the grounds of obviousness from Honkomp et al. in view of Tharman should be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Honkomp et al. in view of Tharman, and further in view of Beinhaur et al., which was cited as teaching connector pins comprising solder cups. It is respectfully submitted that Honkomp et al., Tharman, and Beinhaur et al., taken individually or together, do not teach, disclose or suggest a cup-shaped connector shell having an outer radial connector flange at the first end and an insulating plug mounted in the first end of the cup-shaped connector shell, with the insulating plug having an open side, and a plurality of tubular risers mounted to the open side of the insulating plug, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 10 is also novel and inventive over Honkomp et al., Tharman, and Beinhaur et al., and that the rejection of Claim 10 on the grounds of obviousness from Honkomp et al. in view of Tharman, and further in view of Beinhaur et al. should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: _____
James W. Paul
Reg. No. 29,967

JWP/rvw
Encls.: Return Postcard

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
53942.1